

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21, and add new claim 22 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for documenting events, said system comprising:
a camera for acquiring images and producing a video signal;
a memory for storing images based on the video signal, the memory including a first volatile memory and a second non-volatile memory;
an arithmetic processing unit for certifying each of the images stored in the memory by calculating a digital signature for association with each of the images; and
a sensor coupled to the memory,
wherein the images and associated digital signatures are stored in the volatile memory,
and
the sensor activates a transfer of the images and associated digital signatures from the volatile memory to the non-volatile memory.
2. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 1, wherein when the sensor is activated, images continue to be stored in the volatile memory for a preset time, and then after the preset time before activating the transfer all of the images in the volatile memory are transferred from the volatile memory to the non-volatile memory; ~~the sensor waits a preset time in order to acquire further images in the volatile memory.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 1, further comprising a digital signal processor that compresses the video signal from the camera ~~before~~ in order to store the image in the memory in a compressed format.
4. (Original) The system as defined in claim 3, wherein the digital signal processor compresses the video signal in accordance with recommendation H263 of the ITU-T standard.

5. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 1, ~~further comprising an arithmetic processing unit that certifies the image using a digital signature method~~ wherein the non-volatile memory is a FLASH type memory.

6. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the video signal produced by the camera is a digital signal.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for documenting events, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring images with a camera;
supplying digital data corresponding to the images;
certifying the digital data corresponding to each of the images by calculating a digital signature for association with the digital data corresponding to each of the images;
storing the digital data and associated digital signatures in a first volatile memory; and
activating a transfer of the digital data and associated digital signatures from the first volatile memory to a second non-volatile memory in response to the occurrence of an external event.

8. (Original) The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising the step of compressing the digital data before storing it in the first memory.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising the step of:
producing an activation signal from an activation sensor of a passenger protection system of an automobile on the occurrence of the external event,
wherein the external event is an automobile accident ~~certifying the digital data before storing it in the first memory through the use of a digital signature.~~

10. (Original) The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising the step of integrating the digital data with relative temporal data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 7, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the activating step includes the sub-steps of:

activating a sensor on the occurrence of the external event, and
when the sensor is activated, continuing to store the digital data corresponding to the images in the first volatile memory for a preset time, and then after the preset time transferring all of the digital data stored in the first volatile memory from the first volatile memory to the second non-volatile memory.

12. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit for documenting events, said integrated circuit comprising:

a memory for storing images based on a video signal received from a camera, the memory including a first volatile memory and a second non-volatile memory;

an arithmetic processing unit for certifying each of the images stored in the memory by calculating a digital signature for association with each of the images; and

a sensor coupled to the memory,

wherein the images and associated digital signatures are stored in the volatile memory,
and

the sensor activates a transfer of the images and associated digital signatures from the volatile memory to the non-volatile memory.

13. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit as defined in claim 12, wherein when the sensor is activated, images continue to be stored in the volatile memory for a preset time, and then after the preset time before activating the transfer all of the images in the volatile memory are transferred from the volatile memory to the non-volatile memory, ~~the sensor waits a preset time in order to acquire further images in the volatile memory.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit as defined in claim 12, further comprising a digital signal processor that compresses the video signal from the camera ~~before~~ in order to store the image in the memory in a compressed format.

15. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit as defined in claim 12, ~~further comprising an arithmetic processing unit that certifies the image using a digital signature method~~ wherein the non-volatile memory is a FLASH type memory.

16. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit as defined in claim 12, wherein the video signal is a digital signal produced by the camera.

17. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for documenting events, said program containing instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring images with a camera;

supplying digital data corresponding to the images;

certifying the digital data corresponding to each of the images by calculating a digital signature for association with the digital data corresponding to each of the images;

storing the digital data and associated digital signatures in a first volatile memory; and

activating a transfer of the digital data and associated digital signatures from the first volatile memory to a second non-volatile memory in response to the occurrence of an external event.

18. (Original) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 17, wherein said program further contains instructions for performing the step of compressing the digital data before storing it in the first memory.

19. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 17, wherein said program further contains instructions for performing the step of:

receiving an activation signal from an activation sensor of a passenger protection system of an automobile on the occurrence of the external event,

wherein the external event is an automobile accident ~~certifying the digital data before storing it in the first memory through the use of a digital signature.~~

20. (Original) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 17, wherein said program further contains instructions for performing the step of integrating the digital data with relative temporal data.

21. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium as defined in claim 17, wherein ~~said program further contains instructions for performing the~~ activating step includes the sub-steps of:

activating a sensor on the occurrence of the external event, and
when the sensor is activated, continuing to store the digital data corresponding to the
images in the first volatile memory for a preset time, and then after the preset time transferring all
of the digital data stored in the first volatile memory from the first volatile memory to the second
non-volatile memory.

22. (New) The system as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

an auxiliary battery for powering the system if power from an external battery is cut off,
wherein the sensor is an activation sensor of a passenger protection system of an
automobile that is activated in an accident.